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Statement of Governor Doyle on U.S. Department of Energy Report Predicting Higher Summer Gas Prices

Renews Call for a Refund for American Consumers

Today the U.S. Department of Energy released an analysis predicting that gasoline would be at least 25 cents higher this summer than last summer – and the Associated Press is reporting that some analysts believe the price may climb above the \$3.00 a gallon mark. Nationally, the price of gas has risen 18 cents in the past two weeks, reaching 40 cents more than one year ago. Some motorists in Milwaukee this morning faced prices of \$2.89 a gallon.

Governor Doyle made the following statement:

"The rise in prices over the past few weeks has been alarming, but what's even more alarming is that Congress and President Bush have consistently refused to do anything about it. After Hurricane Katrina, I joined with many other Governors in calling on the President to hold the big oil companies accountable, and force them to give a refund to American consumers who have been gouged at the pump. Months have gone by, and nothing has happened. Now, with some experts predicting \$3.00 a gallon, Wisconsin families face real hardships this summer. They are getting squeezed, and Washington isn't lifting a finger to help.

"I hope that when Congress returns from its recess it will revisit this issue, and take meaningful action to end the gouging of American consumers and give us the refund we deserve. Wisconsin consumers alone have overpaid the big oil companies by hundreds of millions of dollars. Congress and the President should find a way to make the oil companies give those excessive profits back to the people who paid them.

"Wisconsin continues to be a leader in energy efficiency and renewable fuels like ethanol. We have put into place a balanced, far-reaching, and forward-looking energy policy. Unless Washington does the same thing, Wisconsin families will continue to be squeezed."

- 30 -